

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update further comprises a value.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update further comprises a fragment reference wherein the fragment reference is a pointer to a fragment to be used by the fragment update command.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the fragment reference is a uniform resource identifier (URI).
6. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the fragment reference is in XPath.
7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.
8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 4 wherein the fragment is in a first node.
9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are the same node.
10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 9 wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 8 wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are different nodes.
12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 11 wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.
13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - determining if a multimedia description corresponding to the access unit has changed;
  - identifying a changed portion of the multimedia description and a corresponding access unit; and
  - forming the fragment update to correspond to the changed portion of the multimedia description.
14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - associating the access unit with a partial description.
15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14 wherein the partial description comprises an instance of a descriptor.
16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - associating the access unit with a reset point that contains a fragment that forms a complete description.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the fragment is stored on a different system than a system performing the method of claim 1.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and further comprising:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is static.

19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1 wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and further comprising:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is dynamic.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a data for decoding to a decoder.

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20 wherein the data include schemas defining a description data to be transmitted.

22. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an access unit comprising a fragment update, wherein the fragment update comprises a command and a first fragment reference, and wherein the first fragment reference is a pointer to a first referenced fragment in a first node.

23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 wherein the first referenced fragment is a partial description.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

comparing the first referenced fragment to a stored fragment; and

obtaining the stored fragment if the stored fragment is the first referenced fragment.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 wherein the first fragment reference is in hyper-text transfer protocol (HTTP).

26. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 wherein the access unit is a part of a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) description.

27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 further comprising:

identifying a second node which the command affects; and

identifying a second fragment reference which the first fragment reference points to, wherein the second fragment reference points to the first referenced fragment.

28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 22 wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 27, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, further comprising:

replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to the second referenced fragment.

30. (Unchanged) The method of claim 27, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, further comprising:  
replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to a third referenced fragment within the second node.

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31. (New) A computer-readable medium having executable instructions to cause a computer to perform a method comprising:  
forming an access unit comprising a fragment update, the fragment update comprising a fragment update command; and  
forming an encoded data stream from the access unit.

32. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the fragment update command is selected from the group consisting of add, delete, change, and reset commands.  
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33. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the fragment update further comprises a value.

34. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the fragment update command further comprises a fragment reference, and wherein the fragment reference is a pointer to a fragment to be used by the fragment update command.

35. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the fragment reference is a uniform resource identifier (URI).

36. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the fragment reference is in XPath.

37. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the fragment is stored on a different computer.

38. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the fragment is in a first node.

39. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are the same node.

40. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

41. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are different nodes.

42. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

43. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

44. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

determining if a multimedia description corresponding to the access unit has changed;

identifying a changed portion of the multimedia description and a corresponding access unit; and

forming the fragment update to correspond to the changed portion of the multimedia description.

45. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

associating the access unit with a partial description.

46. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the partial description comprises an instance of a descriptor.

47. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

associating the access unit with a reset point that contains a fragment that forms a complete description.

48. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and the method further comprises:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is static.

49. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and the method further comprises:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is dynamic.

50. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises:

transmitting a data for decoding to a decoder.

51. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the data include schemas defining a description data to be transmitted.

52. (New) A computer-readable medium having executable instruction to cause a computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving an access unit comprising a fragment update, wherein the fragment update comprises a command and a first fragment reference, and wherein the first fragment reference is a pointer to a first referenced fragment in a first node.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the first referenced fragment is a partial description.

54. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the method further comprises:

comparing the first referenced fragment to a stored fragment; and  
obtaining the stored fragment if the stored fragment is the first referenced fragment.

55. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the first fragment reference is in hyper-text transfer protocol (HTTP).

56. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the access unit is a part of a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) description.

57. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the method further comprises:

identifying a second node which the command affects; and  
identifying a second fragment reference which the first fragment reference points to, wherein the second fragment reference points to the first referenced fragment.

58. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 57, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, and the method further comprises:

replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to the second referenced fragment.

59. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 57, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, and the method further comprises:

replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to a third referenced fragment within the second node.

60. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

61. (New) A system comprising:

a processor coupled to a memory through a system bus; and  
a encode process executed by the processor from the memory to cause the processor to form an access unit and form an encoded data stream from the access unit, the access unit comprising a fragment update, and the fragment update comprising a fragment update command.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment update command is selected from the group consisting of add, delete, change, and reset commands.

63. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment update further comprises a value.

64. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment update further comprises a fragment reference wherein the fragment reference is a pointer to a fragment to be used by the fragment update command.

65. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment reference is a uniform resource identifier (URI).

66. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment reference is in XPath (extensible markup language path language).

67. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the fragment is stored on a different system.

68. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein the fragment is in a first node.

69. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are the same node.

70. (New) The system of claim 69, wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

71. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are different nodes.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

73. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

74. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the encode process further causes the processor to determine if a multimedia description corresponding to the access unit has changed, identify a changed portion of the multimedia description and a corresponding access unit, and form the fragment update to correspond to the changed portion of the multimedia description.

75. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the encode process further causes the processor to associate the access unit with a partial description.

76. (New) The system of claim 75, wherein the partial description comprises an instance of a descriptor.

77. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the encode process further causes the processor to associate the access unit with a reset point that contains a fragment that forms a complete description.

78. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and the encode process further causes the processor to transmit the encoded

data stream through a network interface coupled to the processor through the system bus while the description is static.

79. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and the encode process further causes the processor to transmit the encoded data stream through a network interface coupled to the processor through the system bus while the description is dynamic.

80. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the encode process further causes the processor to transmit a data for decoding to a decode process through a network interface coupled to the processor through the system bus.

81. (New) The system of claim 80, wherein the data include schemas defining a description data to be transmitted.

82. (New) A system comprising:  
a processor coupled to a memory through a system bus; and  
a decode process executed by the processor from the memory to cause the processor to receive an access unit comprising a fragment update, wherein the fragment update comprises a command and a first fragment reference, and wherein the first fragment reference is a pointer to a first referenced fragment in a first node.

83. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the first referenced fragment is a partial description.

84. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the decode process further causes the processor to compare the first referenced fragment to a stored fragment, and obtain the stored fragment if the stored fragment is the first referenced fragment.

85. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the first fragment reference is in hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

86. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the access unit is a part of a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) description.

87. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the decode process further causes the processor to identify a second node which the command affects, and identify a second fragment reference which the first fragment reference points to, wherein the second fragment reference points to the first referenced fragment.

88. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, and the decode process further causes the processor to replace the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to the second referenced fragment.

89. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, and the decode process further causes

the processor to replace the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to a third referenced fragment within the second node.

⑧ 90. (New) The system of claim 82, wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

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